



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gregory Philip Brown et al.

Group Art Unit: 3636

Examiner: Milton Nelson Jr.

Serial No.: 10/709,403

Filed: May 3, 2004

For: SEAT CONFIGURATION SYSTEM FOR AN AUTOMOTIVE
INTERIOR

Attorney Docket No.: 81093004 / FMC 1678 PUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the first Restriction Requirement dated April 6, 2006, the Examiner restricted the claims to Group I, Claims 1-45 drawn to an automotive seat and Group II, Claims 46-65 drawn to a vehicle and/or vehicle interior. In the response dated April 20, 2006, Applicant elected Group I, Claims 1-45. Upon further review, it has been realized that claims 63-65 are also directed to an automotive seat, and therefore Applicant requests that claim 63-65 be added to Group I.

In the Restriction Requirement dated July 11, 2006, the claims have been further restricted to Subgroup I, Figures 3a-3c (track with a pivot cam); Subgroup II, Figures 3d-3e (pivot bladder); and Subgroup III, Figures 3f-3g (threaded screw and sliding tube). Applicant elects without traverse to prosecute Subgroup I, Figures 3a-3c directed to a track with a pivot cam, which includes claims 1-36, 40-45 and 63-65.

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I hereby certify that this paper, including all enclosures referred to herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage pre-paid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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Michael D. Turner
Name of Person Signing

Signature

Applicant's election of Subgroup I includes claims 63-65 because these claims are generic relative to Subgroups I, II and III. However, if the Examiner determines that claims 63-65 require restriction to another subgroup, then Applicant provisionally elects Subgroup I, Figures 3a-3c, claims 1-36 and 40-45.

The Examiner further indicated that within each subgroup various variants exist. The variants are listed below:

Retractor variant A, Figures 4a-4b, 4d and 5a-5c.

Retractor variant B, Figure 4c.

Bladder variant A, Figures 6a-6b.

Bladder variant B, Figures 6c-6d.

Locking variant A, Figures 13a-13c.

Locking variant B, Figure 13d.

Locking variant C, Figures 14a-14b.

During a phone call with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that Applicant must elect a subgroup with a retractor variant, a bladder variant, and a locking variant. Accordingly, Applicant elects without traverse to prosecute Subgroup I, Figures 3a-3c, claims 1-36, 40-45 and 63-65, with the following variants:

Retractor variant A, Figures 4a-4b, 4d and 5a-5c, claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 18-39, 41-45 and 63-65;

Bladder variant B, Figures 6c-6d, claims 1, 6-11, 13-23, 33, 35-39, 41-45 and 63-65; and


Locking variant A, Figures 13a-13c, claims 1, 7, 9-12, 18-23, 33, 35-45 and 63-65.

In summary, Applicant elects without traverse Group I, Subgroup I, Retractor variant A, Bladder variant B, and Locking variant A, with claims 1-36, 40-45 and 63-65. If the Examiner determines that claims 63-65 need to be further restricted as a variant, then Applicant provisionally elects variant A.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is requested. If the Examiner notes any minor errors, he is invited to telephone the undersigned so that the matter can be promptly handled by Examiner's amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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